

**FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Meeting, Tuesday, 04 February 2014
7:00 pm

1. Vice Chairperson, Larry Richards called the February 2014 meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Roll was taken. A quorum was present.
In attendance: Larry Richards–Vice Chairperson; Beverly Totty, Mayor; Jack Cannon; Mike Berkley, City Arborist; Jane Woodall, Secretary.
Absent: Debby Rainey, Chairperson; Stuart Johnson, Vice Mayor; Lisa Anderson, Planning Commission Chairperson.
Guests: Conner Ball, Todd Behan, Gary Batson, Alpha Technologies;
Jeff Piatt; Forestry advisor, TN Dept. of Forestry;
Wayne Hall, City Manager
3. Approval of Agenda: JCannon moved to amend the protocol by moving item 7.3: Introduction of new Forestry advisor to be discussed in conjunction with item 6.2: removal of Loblolly pines. BTotty seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the amended agenda for the February 2014 meeting with none opposed.
4. Approval of Minutes: BTotty moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting; JCannon seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes for the January 2014 meeting with no changes; none opposed.
5. Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments.
6. Old Business
 - 6.1. Follow-up to the letter written via the Codes Department to the landowner at 2305 Fairview Blvd. pertaining to the removal of the dead trees due to the risk to public safety.
 - The trees are still present on the property. A letter was sent in August 2013 for MBerkley to have permission to tag the trees and he tagged 13 dead trees – all white oaks. Several messages have been left for the property owner and MBerkley has spoken with her about this. The owner has said that these will be removed. The city will remove the trees if the owner does not. MBerkley spoke with Keith Paisley with Public Works and it will cost about 2 times as much for the city to remove and bill the owner. The Board proposed that a new letter be sent giving the owner 1 week to comply. MBerkley will get together the letter and send to WHall and the Codes Department to send to the property owner.
 - 6.2. Follow-up to discussion of removal of Loblolly pines on city property and (7.3) Introduction of new Forestry advisor, Jeff Piatt, from the TN Dept. of Forestry. Jeff has extensive pine tree knowledge and experience in dealing with Pine Beetle infestation and proper density for safe forestry management. Jeff would like to introduce himself to the tree board and answer any question we might have with his new assignment.
 - JCannon made a motion to “request the BOC to adopt the density standard of 60-80 basal points per acre on all City owned property for Loblolly Pines. Thinning to occur immediately on a minimum 18.6 acres as identified on TN Forestry map and on the “Dice Lampley Road Outparcel” using a drop and extraction method. Costs of this cut and extraction process to be offset by proceeds obtained from bonded logging firm.”

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Considerable discussion ensued including the introduction of Jeff Piatt and his providing input. Discussions included:

- Concerns about the amount of acreage involved to mobilize a logging firm (18.6 acres)
- Concerns about compacting with the use of machinery to remove the trees
- The estimated costs for cut and drop versus cut and extraction
- Concerns about damage to other trees with a “cut and drop” as well as the amount of time for the trees to decay
- Concerns about invasive exotics coming in secondary to a large cut
- How this plan would work with the “Grow Fairview Project” with the local schools
- The property in the park versus the property on the Dice Lampley Outparcel
- Covering the costs of removal; possibly working with and combining the removal with tree removal planned by Middle TN Electric.

BTotty expressed concern about a city-wide ordinance.

MBerkley recommended that the Board not decide on this at this meeting since, as the arborist, he has not seen all of the property under discussion.

JCannon expressed concern that decisions and action on the Loblolly Pines continue to be delayed and there continues to be concern about the growing hazard that the trees present.

Following discussion, the motion was reviewed and restated as, “The Tree Commission to request that the BOC adopt the density standard of a basal area of 60-80 for Loblolly Pines on the ‘Dice Lampley Road Outparcel’ and the section of Bowie Nature Park west of Little Turnbull Creek and Hidden Hollow Creek.”

The motion was made by JCannon and seconded by BTotty. The Board voted to approve this motion with none opposing.

7. New Business

7.1. Tree Removal/Replacement Plan and Landscape Plan for Alpha Technologies – Todd Behan.

- MBerkley received the revised plan with approved tree selections and has checked the tree density worksheet and determined it is compliant. BTotty moved to recommend the approval of the revised plan. LRichards seconded the motion.

The Tree Commission voted to recommend the approval of the revised Tree Removal/Replacement Plan and Landscape Plan for Alpha Technologies as presented to the Tree Commission on 04 FEB 2014 with the revised replacement trees that meet the city’s approved tree list.

7.2. Non-compliance for the dead tree replacement around Publix – Mike Berkley.

- MBerkley has counted 102 plants in the Publix landscape – 71 trees and 31 shrubs (Canadian Hemlocks on south facing slope without irrigation). He sent this information to Donn Lovvorn, former City Codes Manager, on 07 November 2013. PGM Properties sent an invoice showing plants that were replaced, but the 71/31 numbers were switched and only 31 trees were replaced, so they are not in compliance. The following issues remain:
 - They did not replace all the trees required
 - They replaced with non-approved trees (per the City’s approved tree list)
 - For the shrub, they used the Burning Bush which is on the invasive species list

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MBerkley did not recommend releasing the bond since the landscape is not in compliance. WHall will look at the construction development plan to see what options the city has as the Codes Department let him know the bond was not renewed. MBerkley suggested that the City Arborist is notified when trees are planted so he can confirm.

The Tree Board opted to table any further discussion on this and keep it on the agenda for discussion at the March 2013 meeting.

7.3. (see discussion with Item 6.2)

7.4. Report on additional information on how the money in the Tree Bank may be used.

- During initial discussion on the use of Tree Bank funds, mention of the Bowie Lake Road street scape was mentioned. As this had not been added to this meeting's agenda, further discussion and action on this was not discussed. The Tree Board opted to move discussion on Tree Bank funds to the March 2013 meeting.

JCannon requested that a Special Meeting be called to discuss the Bowie Lake Road street scape so that it could be considered at the next BOC meeting. The Board members agreed on calling a Special Meeting for Thursday, 06 February 2014, to discuss the Bowie Lake Road street scape.

8. Adjournment: With no further business, Larry Richards adjourned the meeting 9:06 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be 04 March 2014.